Common Minimum Programme to bring down fiscal deficit

965. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's Common Minimum Programme envisages to bring down the fiscal deficit currently from 5.9 per cent to below 4 per cent, to control inflation and lowering of current Sales Tax as well as current high interest rates in the country; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government during 1996-97, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Common Minimum Programme has envisaged, inter-alia, bringing down the fiscal deficit to below 4 per cent of GDP; maintaining price stability, continuation of tax reforms, and restricting on the public borrowings.

(b) Detailed guidelines have been issued to observe fiscal prudence and austerity. Other measures are to be found in the Budget for 1996-97.

Study Group of RBI to Examine Sale of Assets of Sick Public Sector Companies

966. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India had constituted a study Group to examine the issue of sale of assets of sick Public Sector Companies in the country particularly in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Group has submitted its report; if so, what are the salient features of its recommendations; and

(c) what final decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMAPNY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has constituted a small 'group' comprising of senior executives from Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), RBI and State Bank of India (SBI) to consider the suggestion for setting up of an independent organisation for undertaking the functions of sale of assets of sick industrial companies recommended for winding up by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The 'group' in its report has recommended that a new organisation in the form of a limited company may be constituted to deal with the matters relating to sale of assets of sick industrial comapnies as ordered by the BIFR. No final decision has been taken on the recommendation made by the 'group'

RRBs in Rural Areas of Gujarat

967. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the rural areas of Gujarat and the total deposits and working capital thereof separately;

(b) the number of people from rural areas benefited by these banks and the amount of loans disbursed during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints in regard to irregularities in these banks during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to make these banks more effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in Gujarat with total deposits of Rs. 225 crores and working capital of Rs. 304 crores as on 31.03.1995.

(b) As reported by NABARD, the total number of rural people benefited (No. of Accounts) and amount of loan disbursed during 1992-93 1993-94 and 1994-95 (latest available) are as follows:

(Rs.in crores)

Year	No. of Accounts	Amount of loan disbursed
1992-93	56738	34.00
1993-94	52884	38.00
1994-95	63670	68.00

(c) and (d) The complaints as and when received at various levels including Government are looked into by the management of the RRBs concerned or by the sponsor banks or NABARD, as per the requirement of the situation. The remedial measures are taken by the competent authority after such inquiries are completed.

(e) Various steps have been taken to make RRBs more effective. Some of them are listed below:

(i) Eight RRBs from Gujarat have been provided with financial support to the extent of Rs.24.11 crores by Government of India for comprehensive revamping during 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(ii) With a view to widening the range and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending. More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques/demand drafts. Further, for widening their range of services, RRBs have been, interalia, allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers, install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers.

(iii) Seventy RRBs with disbursements of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved from the service area obligations and have been allowed to extend loans throughout the area within their jurisdiction.

(iv) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss-making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandis, block and district headquarters etc. and to redeploy concerned staff suitably,

(v) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turnaround.

(vi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institution and in non-convertible debentures of rcsputcd blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy a part of their sur-

plus non-SLR funds in the credit protfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issued by the latter.

(vii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.

भारतीय डाक्टरों के लिए सी०एम०ई० कार्यक्रम

968. श्री गोविन्द राम मिरी: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 10 जुलाई, 1995 के "दि स्टेट्समेन में सी०एम०ई० प्रोग्राम लाइकली फार इंडियन डाक्टर्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) इस कार्यक्रम को आरम्भ करने की क्रिया विधि क्या है।

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम इकबाल शेरवानी): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) 29 जून से 2 जुलाई, 1995 तक शिकागो में भारतीय मूल के अमरीकी चिकित्सक संघ के प्रतिनिधियों की मीटिंग जिसे तत्कालीन केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री ने संबोधित किया था के दौरान उनसे हुए विचार-विमर्श में यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि भारत में अविच्छिन्न चिकित्सा शिक्षा कार्यक्रम में संघ के अनिवासी भारतीय डाक्टरों की भूमिका बढ़ाई जाए। भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान परिषद भारत में अविच्छिन्न चिकित्सा शिक्षा स्कीम का समन्वय करने के लिए नोडल एजेंसी के रूप में कार्य करते हुए देश के विभिन्न भागों के मेडिकल कालेजों/अस्पतालों में अल्पावधिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन कर रही है।

HIV Positive Cases in Country

969. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons suffering from HIV positive infection in the country is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the total number of HIV infected patients reported as on 1st January, 1996 till date in each State and the number of deaths reported during last three years; and

(c) the immediate steps Government propose to take to combat this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the number of HIV positive infection patients re ported as on 1.1.1996 till date in each State/UTs is annexed at statement I *(See* below). The statement indicating the number of deaths during the last three years is also annexed at Statement-II*(5ee* below)

(c) A comprehensive Programme for the prevention and control of AIDS is currently under implementation as a cent rally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the programme consists of generation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS. Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Blood safety and rational use of blood, better Surveillance, and diagnosis and clinical Management of HIV/AIDS cases.